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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(July 1-31, 1980)

August 1980

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: John Stepanchuk

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Sahara Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

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Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(1-31 July 80)

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

OAU Summit Opens in Sierra Leone

(Text) The 17th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State of member countries of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) began today in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Representatives of 50 independent African countries affirmed the resolutions worked out by the 35th Session of the OAU Council of Ministers which took place here from 18-29 June.

It remains for the heads of state to discuss important problems facing Africa in the political, economic, social, and cultural spheres. This concerns primarily the full liberation of the south of the continent from the remnants of colonialism; the adoption of effective economic sanctions against the racist regime of Pretoria; the combining of efforts by African and Arab countries in reaching a settlement of the Palestinian problem; and the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

The President of Sierra Leone, S. P. Stevens, opened the session. (2 Jul 80, p. 5)

Themes Discussed at OAU Summit

(Excerpt) The main themes of the 17th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State of member countries of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) include the complete liberation of Africa from the remnants of colonialism; the strengthening of its political, and achievement of its economic, independence; and the exposure of the neocolonial aspirations of the West. The participants are devoting much attention to working out a strategy of struggle against the racist Republic of South Africa (RSA) regime and effective measures for assisting the patriots of South Africa and Namibia. (3 Jul 80, p. 5)

Speeches at the OAU Summit

(Summary) Summaries are given for speeches by Zimbabwe Prime Minister R. Mugabe and Mozambique President S. Machel at the 17th Assembly of Heads of State of OAU member countries. A press conference by Chairman of the African National Congress of South Africa O. Tambo is recorded. (4 Jul 80, p. 5)

17th OAU Summit Ends

(Excerpt) The 17th OAU Summit taking place in the capital of Sierra Leone ended.

African heads of state who assembled in Freetown approved documents demanding the South African racists to end their aggression against the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, and Zambia and appealed to the world community for a show of active pressure against the regime of apartheid. This pressure should include a complete oil embargo and the organization of a complete economic boycott of South African racists.

The assembly approved a resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of the Concession of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, passed by the UN at the initiative of the Soviet Union. The resolution notes that the declaration has played and will continue to play an important role in assisting the peoples in their struggle for national independence. (5 Jul 80, p. 5)

OAU Summit on the Indian Ocean

(Excerpt) The heads of state at the OAU Summit declared themselves in favor of transforming the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, free of nuclear weapons. In a special resolution, they expressed particular concern over the creation of an American military base on Diego Garcia which poses a serious threat to peace and security in the region. The Assembly demanded the unconditional return of this island to Mauritius. (7 Jul 80, p. 5)

OAU Resolution to Hamper Air Transit to South Africa

(Excerpt) Participants of the OAU Summit expressed their resolve to prohibit air transit via their countries to South Africa. (8 Jul 80, p. 1)

Regional

Regional Cooperation Agreement

(Text) The signature of a cooperation agreement in the areas of transportation and communication between Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Zaire, and Mozambique took place in Maputo at a ministerial session of these countries. (14 Jul 80, p. 1)

Angola

Soviet Solidarity Committee Condemns South African Invasion of Angola

(Excerpt) Peaceloving peoples and the progressive community of the whole world angrily condemn the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa (RSA), demanding a stop to the military intervention of Pretoria, with the USA and other NATO countries behind its back, into the territory of the independent, sovereign state, the People's Republic of Angola. . . .

The Soviet Committee of Solidarity with the countries of Asia and Africa sent a telegram to the Central Committee of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - Workers Party. The telegram says that the Soviet public received news of this latest expansion of armed aggression by the South African racists with great anger and indignation. The Soviet Solidarity Committee condemns the armed aggression of the RSA against the People's Republic of Angola (PRA) and demands a quick end to it. It declares the solidarity and decisive support of the Soviet people for the friendly Angolan people in their struggle to defend their revolutionary gains, national sovereignty and independence. (1 Jul 80, p. 5)

Angolan Communique on South African Invasion

(Excerpt) The Ministry of Defense of the People's Republic of Angola (PRA) published a communique on the situation in the southern regions of the country subject to an attack by the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

The communique reports that on 24 June another RSA infantry brigade entered the PRA supported by a tank battalion and two batteries of long-range artillery. On 25 June, a company of South African soldiers organized a massive reprisal on inhabitants of the population center, Katumbo. From 25-29 June, Pretoria's invasion forces tried to attack the city of Mongua and mined its access roads. RSA aviation conducted reconnaissance flights over Menonge, the administrative center of the Kuando - Kubango Province, and bombed columns of the Angolan People's Armed Liberation Forces (FAPLA) and units of the People's Defense Organization, proceeding along roads in the Kunene Province.

On 29 June, a column of RSA troops supported by 40 armored vehicles attempted to proceed in the direction of N'jiva, but was stopped 23 kilometers from the city. On the same day, RSA troops, delivered by helicopters, attacked the population center of Mpopa, 60 kilometers from the Namibian border.

As a result of these barbarian acts, 22 peaceful inhabitants and 29 FAPLA servicemen were killed, and three automobiles were destroyed.

The PRA Ministry of Defense emphasizes that the RSA racists not only refused to withdraw their troops from PRA territory from 23-30 June, as the UN Security Council demanded, but, on the contrary, they are increasing their forces, penetrating 60 kilometers into Angolan territory. With all-out support by the people of the whole country, FAPLA is taking measures to defend sovereign Angola. . . .

The Christian Science Monitor reports that the United States is concocting plans to interfere in the internal affairs of Angola on the side of the RSA. The newspaper indicates that the groundwork is being prepared by conservative circles in the American Congress which forced an amendment through the Senate to remove restrictions on aid to the Angolan counterrevolutionaries. (2 Jul 80, p. 5)

Soviet Peace Committee Condemns South African Invasion of Angola

(Excerpt) A statement by the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace says that the unending aggression against the Angolan people is a component of the international imperialist strategy directed at suppressing the national liberation movement.

Declaring its warm support for the struggle of the courageous Angolan people which, under the leadership of its fighting advance-guard, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - Workers Party, is defending the national sovereignty and socioeconomic gains of the country, the Soviet partisans of peace demand a speedy end to the aggression against the People's Republic of Angola (PRA); a full implementation of the UN Security Council Decision; an end to South African military provocation of neighboring states and the illegal occupation of Namibia. (4 Jul 80, p. 5)

Protests of Angolan Invasion

(Summary) Mass meetings in protest of the South African invasion of Angola are taking place throughout southern Angola. The leadership of the French Communist Party severely condemned the South African intervention against Angola. The Bulgarian National Council of the Fatherland Front criticized imperialist countries for offering political, economic, and military aid to Pretoria in violation of UN decisions. (5 Jul 80, p. 5)

International Reaction to Invasion of Angola

(Summary) Press reports from Ethiopia, Czechoslovakia, and West Germany condemn the South African invasion of Angola and the Western countries which are offering political, military, and economic assistance to Pretoria. (7 Jul 80, p. 5)

Statement by Angolan Ministry of Defense

(Text) The Angolan Ministry of Defense announced that South African Armed Forces have been subdued and driven from Angola.

The statement, published today by the Angolan Information Agency (ANGOP), says that the Angolan Popular Liberation Forces (FAPLA) completely liberated Mulemba, Mongua, Evale, Kuamato, and other population centers occupied earlier in the province of Kunene.

The document points out that the racists were not pacified even after their crushing defeat. They continue to violate Angolan airspace constantly and are conducting reconnaissance flights over Kuando Kubango and Kunene, shooting at land transport. (9 Jul 80, p. 4)

Pravda Cartoon

(Text) Introductory marks to a Pravda cartoon: as a result of a decisive counterattack undertaken by units of the Popular Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, the South African interventionists have been driven beyond the borders of the country.

The cartoon, from the New York Daily World, depicts a tank commander addressing his superior. The tank is marked "South Africa," and road signs lead in one direction to Angola and the opposite direction to Washington. The tank commander says, "General, I report that we are met everywhere in Africa with a 'warm' reception." (11 Jul 80, p. 5)

Angola Establishes Diplomatic Relations With Turkey

(Text) It was officially announced in Luanda that the People's Republic of Angola has decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level with the Republic of Turkey. (13 Jul 80, p. 1)

South African Incursion into Angola

(Excerpt) The South African racists once again violated the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Angola (PRA). On 12 July, they invaded the province of Kuando Kubango where they attempted an attack on the city of Kadai. According to a report of the PRA Ministry of Defense, five South African soldiers were killed during the latest aggression, and two ships trying to force a crossing of the Kubango River were sunk.

The ministry statement pointed out that the Pretoria war machine is now concentrating its military formations in the outskirts of the city of Runtu in the territory of occupied Namibia while preparing another bandit sortie against the peaceful population of the Angolan province, Kuando Kubango. In this connection, the PRA Ministry of Defense declared the readiness of the Popular Armed Forces of the Liberation of Angola to resist any intrigues committed by the aggressor.

The latest aggressive acts of the racists are being undertaken literally several days after their large-scale invasion of the southern regions of the republic. The local press reports that their aim is to inflict heavy material damage to Angola, destabilize its economy, and thereby break the process of national reconstruction.

In carrying out this insidious plan, the interventionists have struck important economic targets in Kunene Province, the livestock center of the republic. Until recently, there were 1.5 million head of long-horn cattle in this province. The province also possessed the largest meat industry in the country. The aggressors destroyed livestock farms, slaughter-houses, water supply systems, and means for transporting livestock. Great damage was done to irrigation systems.

The press and mass organizations in Guinea and the Congo express their indignation over the South African invasion of Angola. (17 Jul 80, p. 5)

Botswana

Botswana President Is Dead

(Text) The President of the Botswana Republic, Seretse Khama, died at the age of 59. He was the one and only President since Botswana's declaration of independence in 1966. (14 Jul 80, p. 1)

Cape Verde

Speech by Cape Verdian President

(Text) "In the 5 years since its independence, the Republic of Cape Verde has achieved considerable success in strengthening its economic base and the raising of its people's welfare," declared the President of the Republic, A. Pereira.

Speaking on the occasion of his country's fifth anniversary, Pereira said that almost 4 billion escudos have been invested in diverse projects for the new economic system in the country. Their realization allows the government to establish complete control over industrial activity. Twenty state and mixed enterprises have been established. The President noted that at the present time, the government is working out a plan for the socioeconomic development of the country in addition to a law on the principles of agrarian reform.

The government is directing significant efforts at the development of education. (16 Jul 80, p. 5)

Congo

Congolese Minister of Culture Received in Moscow

(Text) On 18 July, Candidate Member of the USSR Politburo, USSR Minister of Culture, P. N. Demichev, received the Culture and Sport Minister of the People's Republic of the Congo, J. Tati-Loutard.

Issues of furthering cultural cooperation between the USSR and Congo were discussed during the friendly talks.

The Congolese Ambassador to the Soviet Union, J. Okanza, took part in the talks. (19 Jul 80, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Admiral Gorshkov in Ethiopia

(Text) Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC), Chairman of the Organizing Commission for the Workers Party, and Commander in

Chief of the Revolutionary Army Mengistu Haile Mariam received Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) Central Committee Member, Commander of the Naval Fleet, and Deputy Minister of Defense Admiral S. G. Gorshkov, who is here on an official visit.

S. G. Gorshkov conveyed to Mengistu Haile Mariam and the Ethiopian people a greeting from the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, L. I. Brezhnev.

Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed his deepest gratitude to L. I. Brezhnev for his comradely greeting and emphasized that the people of Ethiopia and the USSR are binding the tight knots of friendship and cooperation based on the principles of proletarian internationalism. (4 Jul 80, p. 4)

Ethiopian Campaign to Fight Erosion

(Text) One of the most serious problems of Ethiopian agriculture is soil erosion. The country's climate, with alternating droughts and floods which bring tropical rains, causes great damage to arable land. The situation is complicated by the fact that as a result of the rapacious exploitation of forests during the previous regime, the area of forest tracts was sharply reduced.

The Agricultural Ministry devised measures to fight erosion. The Peasant Associations are taking a more active role in the struggle. A campaign to plant trees is being conducted in the country. Noting that the first results of protecting soil fertility can be considered successful, the newspaper, Ethiopian Herald, called for an intensified resistance of the elements in order to solve the task of national reconstruction more successfully. (4 Jul 80, p. 5)

Picture Caption

(Text) Before the revolution, Ethiopia was one of the most backward countries with respect to literacy. Ninety-three percent of the population remained outside the sphere of education. In a short period of time, the country has achieved impressive results. Since June 1979, two stages of the national campaign for the liquidation of illiteracy have taken place. The picture shows school children from Addis Ababa. (4 Jul 80, p. 4)

Ethiopians Accused of Sedition

(Text) The press reported the sentences of a group of people declared guilty by a military tribunal of serious crimes posing a threat to Ethiopian revolution, sovereignty, freedom, unity, and territorial integrity of the country. The court decision points out that four of the accused, as has been confirmed, had connections with foreign imperialist agents, including the CIA. They were given the death sentence. (14 Jul 80, p. 5)

Joint Ethiopian-Congolese Statement

(Text) Socialist Ethiopia and the People's Republic of the Congo have resolutely set out on the Socialist path of development and will expand the

struggle against the intrigues of imperialism and reaction which attempt to weaken the unity of the fighters of peace and the principles of equality and justice. This was declared during negotiations held in Addis Ababa between Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso and General Secretary of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia Fikre-Selassie Wogderess. (14 Jul 80, p. 1)

Seminar on the Ethiopian Workers Party

(Text) The tasks before the mass social organizations of the country were the subject of the First Session of the Organizing Commission for the Ethiopian Workers Party and are the main themes of a seminar held by the Addis Ababa branch of this commission. (14 Jul 80, p. 1)

Ethiopia Refutes Somalian Accusations

(Text) An editorial in the newspaper Ethiopian Herald refutes assertions stemming from Mogadiscio that Ethiopia intends to invade Somalia and threaten the peace in Djibouti and Kenya. Quoting a statement by the Provisional Military Administrative Council, the newspaper writes that Ethiopia is striving to establish good relations with neighboring countries and all the countries of the world. Evaluating the situation along the Ethiopian-Somalian border, the newspaper declares that peace can only be attained when the forces of invasion and expansion cease sending agents to violate the Ethiopian border and refrain from acts of sabotage. A. Serbin. (15 Jul 80, p. 5)

Political Seminars in Ethiopia

(Text) In the majority of the country's provinces, seminars were held at the behest of the Organizing Commission for the Ethiopian Workers Party. Representatives of government institutions, mass organizations, trade union activists, soldiers, and policemen took part. The seminars examined the results of the recent session of the Organizing Commission, the tasks of forming party cadres, and the propagation of Marxist-Leninist teachings.

The massive job of propagandizing the decisions of the session is being continued. In Addis Ababa, a conference of soldiers and police workers of the capital district began under the auspices of the Chief Political Directorate of the Army. The speakers, including members of the Executive Committee of the Organizing Committee and Minister of National Defense, Brigadier Tesfaye Gebre-Kidan, stated that soldiers must master Marxist-Leninist theories and follow proletarian discipline. A. Serbin. (16 Jul 80, p. 5)

Soviet-Ethiopian Photography Exhibition

(Text) A joint Soviet-Ethiopian photography exhibit dedicated to the 21st Olympic Games opened in the city of Dire Dawa. The vast display recalls the history of the Olympics, the most outstanding sportsmen, and the new complexes and buildings built in the Soviet capital for the athletic festival of peace and friendship. (17 Jul 80, p. 1)

Soviet Aid to Drought-Stricken Regions in Ethiopia

(Text) From day to day in various parts of the provinces of Gamu-Gofa and Sidamo, local weather reports announce sunny weather. These reports are not cause for joy, but are proof that the severe drought is continuing.

Today, an Aeroflot plane from Moscow arrived in the Ethiopian capital with a gift from the USSR Red Cross and Crescent for inhabitants of drought-stricken areas. The 10-ton load delivered by plane contains medication, food, and special provisions for children.

A ceremonious presentation of the gift took place on the airfield. It was accepted by the Ethiopian Commissar for Assistance to the Drought-stricken Regions, Tesfaye Berkhanu, and the Head of the Ethiopian Red Cross, Mekhret. They expressed their deep gratitude for the assistance of the Soviet people. (18 Jul 80, p. 5)

Ethiopian Ambassador Received in the Kremlin

(Text) On 18 July, Candidate Member of the USSR Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, V. V. Kuznetsov, received the Ambassador of Socialist Ethiopia to the Soviet Union, Nesibu Taye, in the Kremlin and held a conversation with him which proceeded in a warm and cordial atmosphere. (19 Jul 80, p. 4)

Ethiopian Herald Attacks the BBC

(Text) The Ethiopian Herald writes that the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is waging a psychological war and subversive activity against Ethiopia. It is clear from an article published in this newspaper that the BBC broadcast in the Somali language has an anti-Ethiopian slant and serves the expansionist policy of Somalia. A. Serbin. (20 Jul 80, p. 5)

Guinea

Speech by Guinean President

(Text) President of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, General Secretary of the Government Party, A. Sekou-Toure, remarked on the successful development of Soviet-Guinean cooperation at a session of the Politburo. He underscored the importance of the recent visit of a Guinean party and government delegation to the USSR. (20 Jul 80, p. 5)

Liberia

Trial of Liberian Army Officers

(Text) The trial of nine high-level officers in the Liberian Army has begun. They are accused of attempting to overthrow the government headed by the Chairman of the People's Redemption Council, S. Doe, which came into power in May of this year. (12 Jul 80, p. 1)

Madagascar

Soviet Presidium Awards Malagasy Official

(Excerpt) On 17 July at the Kremlin, the Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, M. Kholov, presented the Order of Friendship of Peoples to Member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, Arsenu Ratsifekhera. . . .

M. Kholov said, "the Soviet people know the great contribution you are making to the struggle for strengthening the economic and political independence of your country and its development along the path of Socialist orientation. As a member of the highest executive organ of power, the Supreme Revolutionary Council headed by the eminent African political activist, Didier Ratsiraka, under whose leadership Madagascar is following a resolute course of progressive socioeconomic change, you are actively promoting the fundamental goals enumerated by the charter of the Madagascar Socialist revolution. The Soviet public deeply appreciates your active participation as a member of the Presidium of the Universal Peace Council in adopting measures to strengthen detente, ending the arms race, and consolidating peace and security in the Indian Ocean basin. . . . (18 Jul 80, p. 4)

Mozambique

Base of Mozambique Resistance Movement is Captured

(Text) The troops of the Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique (FPLM) captured one of the main bases of the armed counterrevolutionary forces, the so-called "Mozambique Resistance Movement." In the process of the operation which took place in Manica Province, 272 bandits were destroyed and more than 300 detained.

According to reports from the Mozambique Information Agency, the base had its own airfield and acted as a military training base for the bandits' outside operations. Military equipment of foreign make was captured. (11 Jul 80, p. 5)

Formation of Control and Discipline Committees in Mozambique

(Text) The National Conference of the heads of the Control and Discipline Committees was held in the capital of the People's Republic of Mozambique. The participants discussed and adopted a program of action with the purpose of activating work on all levels.

The Control and Discipline Committees were formed in March of this year after the announcement of a political organization campaign by the Chairman of the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO), S. Machel. The main tasks are the guarantee of the strictest control over the execution of party decisions and the strengthening of discipline in industrial enterprises, government and agricultural collectives.

Speaking at the Conference, Minister of State for the President J. O. Monteru stated that the workers are faced with the most important tasks of the

Mozambique revolution at its present stage: the fulfillment of planned production targets and the realization of party and government decisions. He noted that the successful completion of these tasks is possible only through close contact with the working masses. The minister pointed out that the achievement of these goals depends on the working class, the peasantry, and the revolutionary intelligentsia. (16 Jul 80, p. 5)

Nigeria

Nigerian Delegation in Moscow

(Text) On 4 July, a delegation from the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, headed by Senator, Chairman of the Commission for Constructing the Federal Capital, and member of the Nationalist Party Ahmad Rufai, arrived in Moscow. The delegation is in the Soviet Union for an official visit at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. (5 Jul 80, p. 4)

Review of Recent Nigerian Political and Economic Developments

(Summary) An article by A. Romanov describes internal political and economic developments in Nigeria from 1960 to the present. (9 Jul 80, p. 4)

Nigerians Held in British Jails

(Text) Five-hundred and sixty Nigerian citizens have been held in British jails for more than 15 months without trial and investigation. Nigerian newspapers point out that British authorities have not yet declared any charges against the prisoners. The Permanent Senate Commission on International Affairs of the Nigerian National Assembly decided to send a commission to Britain in order to acquaint themselves with the situation of the arrested Nigerians. (15 Jul 80, p. 1)

Soviet-Nigerian Cooperation on Oil Pipeline

(Excerpt) Ikorodu is one of the pumping-distribution stations of the Nigerian oil pipeline coming from the oil refinery at Warri in the Niger delta. From Ikorodu, fuel is sent along one line to the North, Ibadan and Ilorin, and along another to the South around Lagos.

This important pipeline with an expanse of 904 kilometers was built with the cooperation of the Soviet Union. In October 1979, it was set up for exploitation and became part of the system for refining, transport, and storage of oil and oil products. This network serves the thickly populated regions in the southwestern part of the country. . . .

Nigeria is constructing another three pipelines so that the transport problem throughout the country will be solved. The Nigerians are satisfied with the Soviet effort says one young Nigerian engineer.

Speakers at a meeting of Nigerian and Soviet oil workers said that the main result of the joint Nigerian-Russian effort is not only a factory, dam, and Nigerian pipeline, but the feeling of fellowship, friendship, and cooperation. F. Tarasov. (21 Jul 80, p. 5)

Reunion

Preparations for Reunion Communist Party Congress

(Text) Communists and all workers of Reunion are preparing for the important event. From 12 to 14 July in this overseas department of France in the Indian Ocean, the Fifth Congress of the Reunion Communist Party (RCP) will take place. All over the island, party cells and sections are meeting. Delegates to the Congress are being selected and plans for the Congress' decision are being discussed.

The RCP has been one of the most influential political forces in the country for a long time. It gets 40 to 45 percent of the votes. The RCP won its authority through consistent struggle for the rights of workers. This is still being discussed in meetings of party cells and sections. The Reunion Communists believe that one means of overcoming the crisis and improving the situation of workers is to grant the island "popular democratic autonomy." This autonomy, under the conditions of growing leftist forces, should accompany the implementation of progressive socioeconomic transformations. (6 Jul 80, p. 1)

Interview by Reunion Communist Party Chief

(Text) The Fifth Congress of the Reunion Communist Party, taking place from 12 to 14 July, will discuss the program for continuing the struggle for the defense of workers' rights and for granting the island democratic autonomy. This was stated in an interview given by the General Secretary of the Reunion Communist Party (RCP), P. Vergesse, to the journal, Asia-Africa.

The leader of the Reunion Communists welcomed important, progressive changes in the region, including the crossing of Madagascar, Mozambique, and the Seychelles over into the anti-imperialist camp. Along with this, P. Vergesse pointed out the "intensified militarization of Reunion," the strategic role to which it is assigned in the defense of imperialist interests in the basin of the Indian Ocean. (10 Jul 80, p. 5)

Soviet Central Committee Greets the Reunion Communist Party

(Summary) The Soviet Central Committee sends its greetings to the Reunion Communist Party on the occasion of its Fifth Congress. (13 Jul 80, p. 1)

Fifth Session of the Reunion Communist Party

(Text) The Fifth Session of the Reunion Communist Party (RCP) began its work yesterday.

Delivering the current Central Committee report, RCP General Secretary Paul Vergesse stated that the demand to offer the island "popular democratic autonomy" within the framework of the French Republic, a demand pursued by the Reunion Communists, corresponds to the unfolding situation and the basic interests of the country's half million inhabitants. (15 Jul 80, p. 4)

Proceedings of the Reunion Communist Party Congress

(Text) The main tasks of Reunion Communists are strengthening the anti-imperialist solidarity of all forces of peace, progress, and freedom; and the struggle for improving the conditions of Reunion's working masses. This appears in the decisions of the Fifth Congress of the Reunion Communist Party (RCP) which completed its work in the city of Le Port.

Almost 1,000 delegates approved the current report of the Central Committee delivered by General Secretary of the RCP Paul Vergesse. The report and Congress resolutions note the critical economic situation in Reunion and its transformation into a raw material appendage of metropolitan France. Under these conditions, the RCP believes that the attainment of decolonization and the social liberation of the workers can only come about by means of "popular democratic autonomy for the island, derived from the right of the Reunion people to self-determination."

Some of the central themes of the speeches were solidarity with the countries of the Socialist alliance and with the democratic and workers movement of the capitalist countries in their struggle for peace; the liberation of peoples; and social progress.

The Congress condemned the attempts of the United States to establish its supremacy in the Indian Ocean and control over the main gulfs and coastal regions. With this goal in mind, the Congress resolutions declare, the United States has set up a large military base on the island of Diego Garcia. The liquidation of imperialist military bases while preserving the freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean should be the first step in transforming the region into a zone of peace, based on the maintenance of solidarity among the local progressive forces. Seeing its task in the strengthening of this solidarity, the RCP feels that it must also direct its efforts at frustrating the attempts of imperialism to destabilize progressive governments.

Furthermore, imperialist military preparations attempt to enslave the people economically, to activate anti-Communist propaganda, and to subvert maneuvers against progressive governments; this attests to the fact that the West intends to resort to a counteroffensive in face of the worldwide strengthening of Socialist forces, the worker and democratic movement in the capitalist countries, and the forces of national liberation. Unfortunately, the Congress resolution points out, the Chinese leaders have united with imperialism against the national liberation movements and revolutionary forces, particularly in Kampuchea, Laos, and Afghanistan.

The document says that the only way to curb the threat of world war, resulting from the attempts of imperialism to preserve its supremacy on a significant part

of our planet, is by continuing the policy of detente. Only the deepening of detente will guarantee the peaceful development of humanity and free it from the burden of the arms race. The resolution notes that in the struggle for the preservation of peace, detente, and disarmament, the Socialist countries play a most important role.

The delegates expressed their complete support for the freedom fighters in the RSA, Namibia, Palestine, and Western Sahara; declared their solidarity with the peoples of Zimbabwe and Angola; and approved the initiative of Malagasy President Ratsiraka to call an international conference concerning the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

The Congress called for a consolidation of the ranks of international communism in the name of triumph for the Socialist cause and freedom of people.

Paul Vergesse was unanimously re-elected General Secretary of the RCP for another term. The new RCP Central Committee was also appointed. (16 Jul 80, p. 4)

Reunion Communist Party Organ

(Excerpt) In order to successfully resist the unbridled anti-Communist propaganda of local and international reaction and to carry the ideas of the Communist Party to the masses, the RCP Congress resolution indicates its decision to strengthen the party organ, the newspaper Temoinage, and to activate its distribution. (17 Jul 80, p. 5)

South Africa

Analysis of Events in South Africa

(Excerpt) The racist regime of Pretoria placed military force at the head of its strategy for preserving apartheid. This military machine of apartheid was created and is strengthened by the direct participation of Western transnational monopolies who view the Pretoria racists as a tool for suppressing the national liberation movement of African peoples and the protection of their selfish interests in the south of the continent. In spite of the UN resolution forbidding military deliveries to the RSA, the United States and other Western countries are actively supplying the South African racists with modern weapons and are enabling them to create an independent nuclear potential. The monopolies of these countries are supplying the Pretoria regime with necessary oil, computer technology, and other forms of modern technology.

Now, when the shaft of the people's liberation struggle is driving right up to the last bulwark of racism in southern Africa, Washington is throwing its apprentice another life preserver. A few days ago, the US Senate abolished 1976 restrictions on overt or covert military aid to bandit forces of the Angolan separatists. The CIA received complete freedom of action; and this was done on the same days that Pretoria troops invaded Angolan territory. Vitaliy Korionov. (6 Jul 80, p. 4)

Anti-RSA Demonstration in London

(Text) "RSA Troops-Out of Namibia", "Stop the Aggression Against Angola"--under these slogans a mass demonstration against the policies of Pretoria took place at the RSA Embassy building in the English capital. Participants in the demonstration, among them former soldiers and officers of the South African Armed Forces who refused to serve the racist regime, resolutely condemned the position of Western countries which actually display indulgence toward the crimes of RSA authorities. (8 Jul 80, p. 1)

Attack on Activities of Western Monopolies in South Africa

(Excerpt) The corporations of the United States, England, and other capitalist countries are propping the rotted regime of apartheid with the help of investments which exceed \$28 billion.

A union is taking place between Western capital and the military-police apparatus of the Republic of South Africa (RSA). This is explained, for example, by the secret agreement between the administration of the South African affiliate of the American automobile corporation, "General Motors," and the racist authorities made public by the organization, "American African Committee." According to the agreement, General Motors enterprises are shifted to the ranks of key industries, and on the occasion of "unrests," they will be placed directly "under the protection" of the RSA military department which must insure their "uninterrupted work." According to reports received by the UN, there are also agreements which place "all the company resources" at the disposal of the racists "in extraordinary circumstances."

From the use of the apartheid system for the profitable exploitation of natural resources to direct participation in the militarization of this regime and encouraging its militant course--such is the logic behind the activity of Western monopolies in southern Africa. Their criminal cooperation with the RSA underscores the urgency of UN and OAU decisions to widen sanctions against Pretoria so as to liquidate the hotbed of tension on the African continent. Mikhail Zenovich. (10 Jul 80, p. 5)

Capetown Hunger Strike

(Text) Fifty-seven political prisoners in a South African jail in the outskirts of Capetown began a hunger strike in protest of their detention without trial and investigation. (14 Jul 80, p. 1)

Tanzania

Conspiracy in Zanzibar

(Text) The Chairman of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, Abud Jumbe, announced the disclosure of an antigovernment plot on the island. Speaking at a meeting, he reported that the conspirators intended to create "political disorder in Zanzibar and spread discord among the population." Sixteen people were arrested in connection with the plot and the Tanzanian Army was placed on military alert.

Zanzibar is part of the United Republic of Tanzania. A. Jumbe, head of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, is at the same time Vice President of Tanzania. (14 Jul 80, p. 5)

Zimbabwe

Mugabe Speech on South Africa

(Text) Prime Minister of Zimbabwe R. Mugabe affirmed the resolution of his country to wage the struggle against the apartheid regime of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) which has adopted the task of destabilizing the situation in independent South African countries.

R. Mugabe declared that the Government of Zimbabwe decided to close the RSA diplomatic mission in Salisbury which remained from the previous puppet regime of Smith - Muzorewa. (6 Jul 80, p. 5)

Creation of National Army in Zimbabwe

(Text) Evidence of the strengthening unity of patriotic forces in Zimbabwe can be seen in the government's decision to accelerate the creation of a national army.

With this goal in mind, a government committee, headed by the Minister of Social Works, K. Muchachi, has been formed. It is given the task of working out a recommendation for the quickest unification of the African National Liberation Army of Zimbabwe (ZANLA) and the Revolutionary Army of the Zimbabwe People (ZIPRA), representing the two wings of the Patriotic Front.

The members of the committee will visit camps, military bases, and zones of concentration for ZANLA and ZIPRA subdivisions.

The creation of a single national army should take place by the end of this year. (19 Jul 80, p. 5)

White Minority in Parliament Accused of Sabotage

(Text) The Chairman of the Senate, Joseph Calverell, condemned the obstructive tactics of the white grouping in the Zimbabwe parliament. Speaking at a press conference, he stated that several members of the Rhodesian Front are deliberately sabotaging government policy directed at achieving national reconciliation. (21 Jul 80, p. 5)